

# The CROSS-POLLINATOR

Issue 19, March 2021

Newsletter of the  
Australian Native Bee Association

<https://australiannativebee.org.au/>



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Original articles, new information and news  
from the world of native bees



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Dr Laura Brettell is inspecting some of the occupants of a hard-wood block in an apple orchard in Orange, NSW. Read this issue's feature article to learn more.



**Disclaimer** The Cross-Pollinator is a forum to people to express their views and observations. The author of each article is responsible for the statements expressed within; their opinions are not necessarily those of the ANBA.

## Message from the Management Committee

Dear members,

Welcome to another issue of our Newsletter. Inside find a feature articles on bee hotels; a sneak peak of the early results of the stingless beekeeping survey conducted by WSU; a book review; a list of upcoming events, new book out, research highlights, and news from the branches.

We hope that you enjoy the format and information that we provide in the Cross Pollinator. The committee is considering a change of format to that of a website, the Cross-Pollinator website. Currently we produce the newsletter monthly in a PDF format and send members an email with a link to download. If we decide to change to a website, then we will continue to send out a monthly email but with a link to new articles on our Cross-Pollinator website. The advantage of this is that all articles stay on the website and are more easily found. It is quicker to post articles on a website and the website allows constant updates.

The honey committee, led by Dean Haley, has received

the results of our tests of four species of stingless bee honey: hockingsi, carbonaria, australis and cassiae. This testing for common food microbiology and honey chemistry tests will help support our application for native stingless bee honey to be a standardised food. We are reviewing and writing up the results now and hope to share details of this exciting information soon. The results include the world's first analysis of *Austroplebeia* honey.

While on the subject of honey don't miss the talk this Sunday on the remarkable sugar in stingless bee honey. Mary Fletcher will reveal the discovery and the properties of trehalulose in what is sure to be a fantastic talk, attend in person or online, details on page 10.

Two new branches are in the process of forming: balmy Cassowary Coast of Far-North Qld with its unique species and the thriving stingless bee hub of Coffs Harbour. You will be hearing more from these branches soon.

Warm regards from the Management Committee: Tim, Dan, Ian, Peter, Lachlan, Steve, Kit, Toby, Dean, Diane, Martin, Mark, Ian and Tony

## Australian Native Bee Association Inc., Management Committee

All members of the Management Committee would be happy to hear from you with questions, suggestions etc.

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

Each monthly issue of CROSS-POLLINATOR includes an original article. This month is by a group of researchers from Western Sydney University, led by Dr Amy-Marie Gilpin. Amy is an early career scientist, with a strong interest in pollination biology in both agricultural and native ecosystems. Among other projects, she is currently working, in collaboration with Dr Laura Brettell, on determining the impact of adding nesting materials on pollinator abundance and diversity. In the following article she describes the nesting substrates and designs used to trap-nest local bees and their preliminary results.



## NATIVE BEES REQUIRE MORE THAN JUST FLORAL RESOURCES

**Amy-Marie Gilpin, Laura Brettell, James Cook and Sally Power**  
Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment,  
Western Sydney University

Our much-loved native bee species are being increasingly recognised for the important role they play in the pollination of native bushland and agricultural crops. In return for pollination services, flowering plants offer floral rewards of nectar and pollen, which provide the key nutrition bees depend on for survival.

Recently there has been much interest in strategies aimed at bolstering pollinator populations, both overseas and here in Australia. In particular, agri-environment schemes, which involve planting pollinator-friendly seed mixes in agricultural landscapes, are proving very popular.

Agricultural areas by their very nature are typically highly modified, with much of the native vegetation having been removed. This means that outside of the crop flowering period, floral resources available for pollinators may be in short supply. Ensuring that additional floral resources are available throughout the year can potentially help to conserve our native pollinators, and also help to secure

pollination services to many of our favourite fruits and vegetables.

Another key requirement of native bees, and one that is often overlooked, is the availability of suitable nesting habitat.

One popular way to augment pollinator habitat has been through providing bee hotels (otherwise known as trap nests). Bee hotels are artificial nesting structures made from wood, reeds, rammed earth or sand that are attractive to bees and other insects which use similar structures in nature to create their nests.

As the role of native bees in pollinating some of our favourite crops is becoming increasingly recognised, we decided to undertake an experiment in 10 apple and cherry orchards in Bilpin and Orange, NSW to determine the efficacy of bee hotels as nesting habitat enhancements and to provide a snapshot of the local hole-nesting insect communities.





We chose three common designs a bamboo reed hotel, hard wood block following the designs of Smith and Heard (2016), and rammed earth brick following a design from (<https://www.beesbusiness.com.au/garden.php>) which

was made from a combination of sand and cement. Four replicates of each hotel were then placed into two sunny sheltered locations on each farm for one year.



Figure 1. The hardwood block hotel. Each block consisted of 9 holes (three holes of each 5.5mm, 6.5mm and 8.5mm drilled to 150mm depth; 6 holes on one face of the block, 3 holes on the other face), all with a paper straw fitted to allow us to extract the occupants.

Figure 2. The bamboo reed hotel. Bamboo reeds were cut to 150mm lengths and placed within a 150mm length of 90mm diameter PVC pipe. If you look hard you can see the red and green nest entrances.





Preliminary results show that both hardwood blocks and reed hotels attracted a diverse array of insects including mud wasps, spiders and ants as well as leaf-cutter and resin bees. Unfortunately, we had very few guests in our rammed earth brick hotel, which may be due to our cement mixing skills or maybe there was a fancier hotel down the road!

Although these artificial nests are affectionately known as bee hotels, it is perhaps surprising just how many predators of native bees such as ants and spiders were occupying the hotels. From our observations, we would recommend that hotels be raised off the ground and mounted to a pole (or a simple star picket) as an ant guard, as when natural objects such as logs or rocks were used as a platform for the hotel, ants nearly always seemed to find their way in and take up residency.

Interestingly, there was only a small overlap in the insect taxa we observed utilising the nest enhancements and those we observed visiting the crops (apple or cherry), although we did observe these insects visiting native plants in the surrounding bush and on weedy species within the orchard. Our findings show that artificial nest enhancements deployed into agricultural areas have the

potential to attract a broad range of insects and pollinators of both the crop and other flowering species. If nesting sites are limiting in these highly altered environments, they may thus improve ecosystem function.

**Reference:** Smith T. and Heard T. 2016, Chapter 6: Creating artificial nest sites for Australian solitary and semi-social bees. AgGuide Australian Native Bees. NSW Department of Primary Industries.

**Acknowledgements:** We would like to thank all of the orchard owners for allowing us to use their properties and Steve Leake for helping design and make the hotels.

**Funding acknowledgement:** This work was supported by the “Healthy bee populations for sustainable pollination in horticulture” and is funded by the Horticulture Frontiers Pollination Fund, part of the Horticulture Frontiers strategic partnership initiative developed by Horticulture Innovation Australia, with co-investment from Western Sydney University, Bayer Crop Science, Syngenta Asia-Pacific and Greening Australia, and contributions from the Australian Government.

Figure 3. Rammed earth brick hotels. Occupancy of these hotels was low which may indicate that these hotels were not super attractive, that there was a better nesting habitat nearby, or that there were few ground nesting bees in the immediate area.





# 3<sup>rd</sup> National Stingless Bee Survey

## Completed

By Sunayana Sajith

The 3rd National Stingless Bee Survey ended on the 5th December 2020 and I am happy to report that the survey gathered 1448 responses in total. Thank you for your overwhelming support and survey responses, which can be attributed to the tight knit stingless bee community for spreading the news of the survey.

From the total survey responses, 287 needed to be excluded due to missing data for the question 'How many colonies of stingless bees do you have?' or participant consent to use survey data was not provided. This leaves us with 1161 responses, nearly double the number of stingless beekeepers since the 2010 survey (635 responses).

The table below provides a brief summary of the survey responses.

Decadal survey results summarised. The 1998-9 and 2010 surveys conducted by Tim Heard and Anne Dollin (Heard and Dollin, 2000) and the 2010 survey undertaken by Megan Halcroft (Halcroft et al 2013) are shown in yellow columns. The third survey, shown in green, was undertaken by Sunayana Sajith and the WSU team

Parameters	1998-9 (1)	2010 (2)	2019-2020 (3)
No. of beekeepers	298	635	1448
Residing in NSW (%)	29	38	51
Residing in Qld (%)	71	61	48
Residing in NT (%)	< 0.5	< 0.5	<0.01
No. of SB nests	1425	4935	11442
Located in NSW (%)	9	16	48
Located in Qld (%)	91	84	51
<b>Stingless bee species kept (%)</b>			
<i>Tetragonula carbonaria</i>	50	61.5	61.5
<i>Tetragonula hockingsi</i>	7	8.8	21.4
<i>Austroplebeia australis</i>	9	22.9	7.2
<b>Other</b>	34	6.8	9.9
<b>Nest locations (%)</b>			
Suburban areas	56	67	65
Rural	24	20.5	10
Near bush	20	12.5	12



### 3<sup>rd</sup> National Stingless Bee Survey (continued from previous page)

The survey gathered responses predominantly from NSW and QLD beekeepers, with a few responses from the NT, ACT and VIC. It is interesting to note the steady growth of stingless beehives in NSW over the past two decades. When the first survey was conducted, only 9% of stingless hives were kept in NSW; this number has now increased 5.3 fold in 2020. This increase in stingless hives brings NSW neck to neck with QLD stingless beehives.

*Tetragonula carbonaria* continues to be the predominant species kept by stingless beekeepers at 61.5%, followed by *T. hockingsi*. *T. hockingsi* has seen a 3-fold increase over the past 2 decades while *Austroplebeia australis* has seen a 3.1-fold decrease in the past decade. The results from this survey will be published more formally in a scientific journal and an article describing these results in further detail can be expected in Cross Pollinator later this year.

The survey participants entered a lucky draw on completing their response and 10 winners were randomly se-

lected. These winners were contacted for their choice of prize, either a native bee poster by Gina Cranson, The Australian Native Bee Book by Tim Heard, or a \$30 gift card. Six winners choose the native bee poster, three choose the native bee book, and one winner opted for the gift card; prizes were distributed to winners early this year. A special mention and thankyou to Gina Cranson and Tim Heard for donating prizes for the survey. Also, a big thank you to everyone who helped spread the word about this survey and to everyone who had taken the time to respond to this survey.

**Funding Acknowledgements:** “Stingless bees as effective managed pollinators for Australian horticulture” is funded by the Hort Frontiers Pollination Fund, part of the Hort Frontiers strategic partnership initiative developed by Hort Innovation, with co-investment from Syngenta Asia-Pacific, OLAM, Griffith University and contributions from the Australian Government.

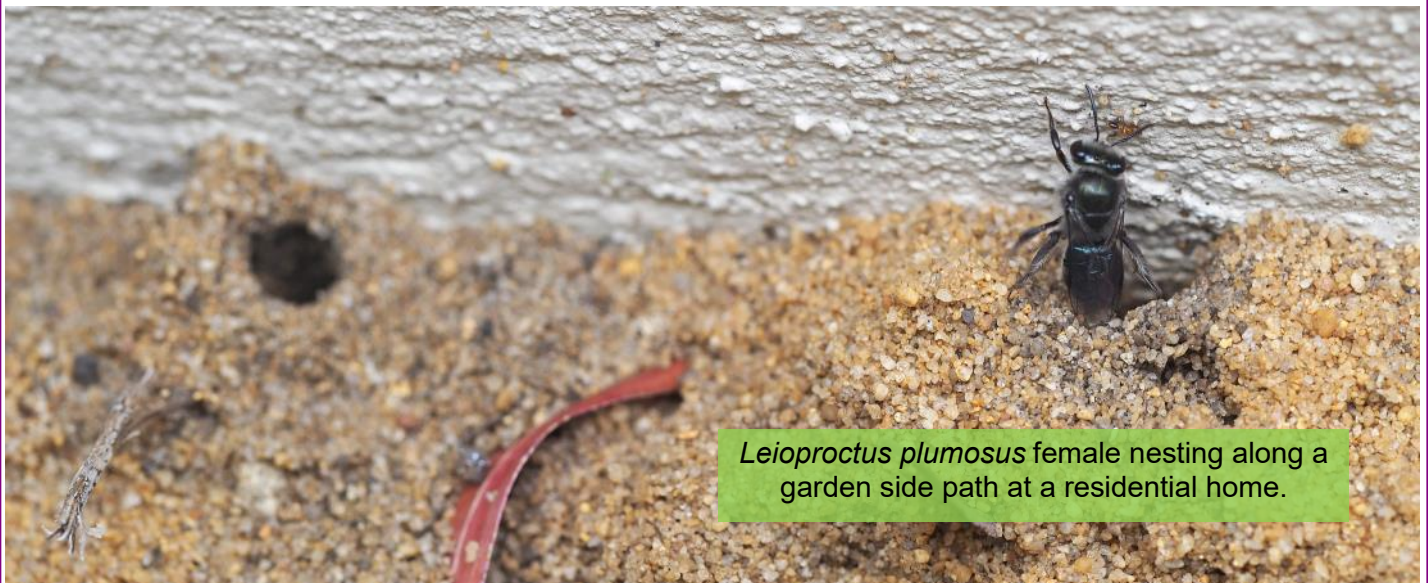
## Research highlights

### Urban domestic gardens support nesting populations of a native bee

Kit Prendergast reports on citizen science and bee nesting in a recent article published in Austral Ecology

The nesting habits of many Australian native bees are poorly known, with observations of nests being few and far in between. Here, I report three independent nesting aggregations of a native colletid bee *Leioproctus* (*Leioproctus*) *plumosus*, accompanied by videos of its nesting behaviour and photographs of its nesting substrate. These discoveries were made possible through the citizen science group 'Bees in the burbs'. Despite extensive surveys in the region, the only nesting occurrences of *L. plumosus* have been found in domestic gardens, all in

highly urbanised areas. With this species more frequently encountered in residential gardens, this suggests that despite evidence of ground-nesting bees being relatively disadvantaged by urban development due to replacement of bare ground with impervious surfaces, this species can still use residential areas for nesting. I propose potential explanations for this phenomenon, which includes new observations of commonly foraging on *Callistemon* – a popular tree in gardens and on nature strips. That this native bee's nests appear to be associated with residential gardens provides both opportunities to engage citizen scientists in documenting and preserving native bee populations, but also indicates the threat ongoing urban development may pose.



Australian native bee writing has been buzzing with activity recently producing a veritable swarm of new books to delight readers. As luck would have it, these books complement each other beautifully.

Last issue we published a review of Terry Houston's book by Ken Walker. This issue we give you another wonderful review of one more wonderful book.

[Book review: "The Australian bee genera: An annotated, user-friendly key" by Tobias J. Smith](#)

\$FREE PDF available for download from the Bee Aware Brisbane website.

In recent years, books on Australian native bees have become very popular. Most of these books focus on a particular topic and aim to fill a particular niche. As a researcher, two of these books earn the most scuffing; Terry Houston's *A guide to native bees of Australia* and Tobias Smith's *The Australian Bee genera: An annotated, user-friendly key*. And of the two, the latter sees more use.

Toby's book is wonderful in its simplicity and fills a really critical niche. As native bee research in Australia continues to grow, many new researchers are entering the field. With this influx comes issues surrounding inexperience in bee identification — I am no exception. For those playing along at home, bee ID is seriously tough! The consequences of poor identification of a photo online might be relatively mild. But, mis-identifications in a scientific context run higher stakes.

The daunting task of bee ID is made quite a lot less so thanks to Toby's hard (and unpaid) work. I for one think that his service to the Australian bee research community in this is under-stated and under-appreciated. And I would encourage everyone to thank Toby for his wonderful work. I would also encourage researchers who use his book for identifications to cite it.

Toby is also an excellent macro photographer and has spread some of his lovely macro shots throughout the

# The Australian bee genera

## An annotated, user-friendly key

Tobias J. Smith



book. These photos are also accompanied by many wonderful shots from PaDIL.

If you haven't noticed by now, I very much enjoy Toby's book. And, while I haven't read it from cover to cover, like I did with Terry's book, I have been over every page multiple times and even use his *Overview of Australian bees* (page 5) to keep track of the bee genera that I have, or have not, imaged. (Only 16 to go!). But of course, the two books are really very complimentary and Terry's book can provide the detail to a bee genus, once you have reached and ID using Toby's book.

The book is broken up into a few sections. The first part of the book includes: (i) The acknowledgements — few pieces worth their salt are written in complete isolation. (ii)



**The Australian bee genera**  
**An annotated, user-friendly key**  
by Tobias Smith



“As the pre-eminent pollinators the bees bring together flora and fauna, forming an integral component in sustaining natural ecosystems. To understand and protect ecosystems, resources that permit the identification of organisms are vital, particularly those that bridge the gap between professional taxonomists and citizen scientists. Here Tobias Smith has provided a wonderful guide to Australia's melittological fauna, one that is well illustrated and easy to use. Each couplet is accompanied by photographs or illustrations that guide the user to the proper bee genus. A successful key is one in which any user can reach a proper identification without recourse to the composer of the key. It is fair to say that Tobias Smith has achieved such success with the present work and, as such, this volume is a tremendous resource for amateurs and professionals alike and does justice to the rich and myriad melittofauna of Australia.”



ISBN 978-1-9215797-77-0

—Michael S. Engel  
Senior Curator & University Distinguished Professor  
University of Kansas Natural History Museum

The preface — which explains why this book needed to be written. (iii) The identification equipment required (or preferred). (iv) A ‘how to’ for the use of the key, which is particularly good for those just starting out. (v) A brief overview of the Australian bee fauna — this includes a list of the families, subfamilies and genera which I still use to refresh my memory! (vi) Bee anatomy and Terminology (including mouthparts) — a section which a reader might frequently flip back to when using the key and trying to figure out the [bloody confusing] terminology that taxonomists use. (vii) A “bee or wasp?” page — It’s not a straight-forward question, alright? And (viii), a page on how to tell apart female and male bees.

The second half of the book is where I spend most of the

time — the annotated, [and well-illustrated] user-friendly key. This is where Toby’s book shines the brightest. The majority of scientific keys are written in a way where one might need to read on page 15 and then go and compare two images, one on page 50 and the other on page 89; that is if you are lucky enough to have illustrations of the character-of-interest at all! Instead of opting for this tired method. Toby has instead provided us with the written key couplets along with images of the relevant morphological (physical) characters — often with big red arrows and shading to guide the intrepid [and possibly inexperienced] bee explorers.

While the first edition of the book had a couple of not-quite-optimal couplets, Toby has been very proactive in updating these couplets online. I for one would love to have a second addition print of the book, particularly if (like the first edition) it is also printed on such durable paper that is resilient to wear and tear in the field. This would also mean requesting Toby to sign another copy of the book for me. I hope that he would oblige.

I’m sure that most people who know Toby have experienced his almost giddy passion for native bees. I know that I feel most-comfortable in my own over-the-top excitement for bees when sharing it

with Toby. Toby’s passion is often translated into selfless dedication in advancing Australian native bee research and spreading that same excitement to others. For example, Toby was a major driving force for my own interest in bees when I was an undergraduate student.

Hence, I am thrilled to strongly recommend Toby’s book to all readers interested in identifying Australian native bees. The lay reader can find the writing and images useful, even in the absence of a microscope. For researchers, this book is a near-indispensable resource to quickly, and easily, distinguish genera. And did I mention it’s free?

James Dorey, PhD candidate at Flinders University and The South Australian Museum.

## Native Bee Workshops, events, seminars & products

Members of ANBA are invited to promote their events, services and products in the Cross-Pollinator.

Please send details to [comoff@australiannativebee.org.au](mailto:comoff@australiannativebee.org.au).

### Monthly live online events of the Australian Native Bee Association

The March meeting comes from the Brisbane branch, on Sunday 7 March, at 1 pm, Brisbane time. Professor Mary Fletcher will be presenting a talk titled "Trehalulose, a sweet but healthy sugar in stingless bee honey".

All are welcome to attend in person, free for members, \$5 fee for non-members. We will attend to some branch business following the talk.

ANBA members can attend virtually by clicking this meeting link, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84612032225?pwd=RDZYMTFsbGpndzBMcEY4L1NzdXBzQT09>

Meeting ID: 846 1203 2225

Passcode: 332362

**Title. Trehalulose, a sweet but healthy sugar in stingless bee honey**

**Biography.** Professor Mary Fletcher is an applied organic chemist with a passion for the application of chemistry in the agricultural space. She graduated from the University of Queensland with BSc (Hons I) and then a PhD in Chemistry. Her early career focused on insect pheromone research firstly at UQ and subsequently with Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI). Mary has since developed a specialist knowledge of the toxins in poisonous plants and fungi and their impacts on livestock and human health, food safety and even their presence in

honey. In 2010 Mary returned to UQ with the formation of Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) where she has continued to apply her analytical chemistry skills to address issues in animal production. Her current research interest lies in the identification and analysis of the unusual sugars present in stingless bee honey, and elucidating the origin of these low GI sugars.

### ANBA Workshops

ANBA is offering a workshop in Gladstone in 13 March. Attend to learn all about native bees, the solitary and social ones and how to propagate them. The slide presentation will cover the topics of bee nesting biology, bee foraging biology, diversity of wild bees, importance of bees in natural systems, traditional stingless beekeeping around the world, modern stingless beekeeping in Australia, using stingless bees for pollination of gardens and farms, sugar-bag honey and its properties, rescuing bees threatened in the wild, and more. In the practical session, we will open hives and observe the amazing structures within. We will demonstrate the various ways of propagating hives. You will pick up lots of tips on managing the native social bees, including how to extract honey from them. Presenter is Tim Heard.

If you have a hive that you would like to divide, you can bring to the workshop, contact [tim@sugarbag.net](mailto:tim@sugarbag.net).

Tickets for members of ANBA are discounted, join here well in advance to get your membership approved in time to reserve your ticket, <https://australiannativebee.org.au/join-us>

Date: March 13, 2021 Time: 10am to 4pm

Location: Calliope Bowls Club

Tickets: Mark (0490 382 401) or Ian (0458 737 760)

Cost: \$30 non-members \$10 Members

This project is supported by Fitzroy Basin Association, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

### Commercial Workshops

Workshops by Kit Prendergast

A native bee workshop at Araluen botanic gardens at multiple dates. Select your date and get your tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/native-bee-presentation-at-araluen-botanic-park-tickets-142656715075>





## Workshops by Sugarbag Bees

Sugarbag Bees offer seminars and workshops presented by Drs Tim Heard, Francisco Garcia and/or Tobias Smith. If you want to learn more generally about bees, especially stingless bees and beekeeping, come along to half and full day workshops held in various venues in Qld and NSW. The workshops are a mix of photographic slideshows and practical sessions. You will learn how to divide hives and extract honey and use the bees for pollination. Attendance price varies. See here for an extensive series of educational events in Qld and NSW: <https://sugarbag.net/events>

## Workshops by Beezotted

Saturday March 6th Barabra NSW Show.

COVID safe with small participant numbers in all work- shops at our Mooloolah Valley Beezotted bee shed, 9-1 pm

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May

Cost \$55, includes fresh damper and cuppa

Gift vouchers available for workshops, new boxes, hives, sculptured log hives

Bookings by phoning Matthew Middleton 0499886899

Read a review of Matthew's workshops here: <https://www.nativebeehives.com/bee-zotted-with-matthew-middleton/>



## A NEW BOOK – Keeping Australian Native Stingless Bees, by Greg Coonan

As a member of the Australian Native Bee Association I would like to bring to your attention a book I recently authored with the help of fellow native stingless bee enthusiasts. Titled "Keeping Australian Native Stingless Bees" published by Northern Bee Books a British business which has the largest range of English language beekeeping books in the world.

As a practitioner I thoroughly enjoy supporting and guiding members of the public to become owners of thriving native beehives, competent propagators, rescuers and honey harvesters.

Like many members of the Association we have found the questions that new starters ask are predictable and repeated over and over on the pages of various native bee Facebook groups.

Our thinking in preparing this book was to provide a simple guide for these common questions by sharing what works consistently well for us. We also saw a need to assist new starters who may not be big on reading by keeping the book as concise as possible, (63 pages).

For experienced native bee keepers the book will hold few surprises but I know we are always curious about what others are doing, hoping to find a little gem that we can use to improve our own native beekeeping practices. The book can be purchased from the publishers and Amazon.

## Keeping Australian Native Stingless Bees



**Bees that are stingless,  
disease free and require zero maintenance -  
How cool is that?**

*by Greg Coonan*

### Brisbane Branch News

The February meeting saw a return to normality for the Brisbane Branch with good numbers attending in person.

The Chair Dean Haley opened the meeting and welcomed attendees, especially those attending for the first time. Dean shared items from the last Australian Native Bee Association Management Committee meeting. Dean invited discussion on a range of issues including:

- Shirts, pins, banners etc.
- Privacy policy is being implemented to protect member data.
- ANBA has funds available for branch initiatives.
- Proposal to move Cross-Pollinator to a website-based approach.
- Movement of native bees between NT and Qld. Dean wanted the member's views on the movement of native bees between NT and Qld so that he can report back to ANBA. There are potential issues around invasiveness and biosecurity. There was some discussion but general support that bees should not be taken from their natural areas of distribution into other area. Dean will report this view back to ANBA.
- The ANBA has a proposal to move the Cross-Pollinator publication from a PDF to a website. The matter was discussed with general consensus around maintaining the production of a PDF publication.

**Guest Speaker:** Tim Heard was the guest speaker for this meeting and presented the topic "POP, the cell provisioning and egg laying behaviour of stingless bees". Tim covered the complex and fascinating behavioural sequence involving the construction of cells by workers, provisioning of the cells with larval food by workers, oviposition in the cells by the queen and sealing of the cells by workers.



**Next Meeting:** The March meeting, at the Hut Chapel Hill, on Sun 7 Mar 2021, 1pm, Dr Mary Fletcher, a biochemist from the Uni of Qld will be talking about stingless bee honey. Mary and her colleagues discovered the unique sugar Trehalulose and is currently working to understand the synthesis of this sugar under natural conditions.

**Future meeting venue:** The Brisbane executive are exploring a new venue for our meetings. Although the Hut is rustic some members struggle with the heat on those hot days. From the April meeting we may meet at a new location, perhaps the Bulimba Community Hall. Keep your antennae out for this change, but for the March meeting we are sticking to the Hut.

### Mid North Coast NSW Branch News

Our first meeting for the year was a lovely continuation from the last meeting of 2020, Solitary Bees and Bee Hotels. The night started with Gail Albertoni sharing her knowledge and resources with the group telling us of past successes and new techniques she has learnt from people along the way. We were also lucky enough that Mick Albertoni also brought along some of his bee hotels, which gave the newer members of our club the opportunity to actually hold and study the hotels.

The next speaker was Jim Marchment, who shared his experiences with Bee Hotels showing photos of different types that he uses on his property. He also covered different materials that can be used from hardwoods to clay. He told of the best way to acquire the materials making sure that any wood should not be treated and you should avoid using clay from art shops.

The club is looking into holding a "How to make a Bee Hotel" class for school children and their parents. We would love to hold this event at the local community gardens, such as in Port Macquarie's "The Lost Plot". Diane Norris has held Native Bee information sessions there in the past, which my children and I were lucky enough to see. So, watch this space! Our next meeting will be held on the 4th March at 7pm at the Laurieton United Services Club. A topic has yet to be chosen but with ANBA holding a Native Bee Workshop on the 27th February at Lorne Community Hall I'm sure there will be a lot to talk about.

Derek Ayriess, communications Officer



## Branch News

### Gladstone Branch News

On my recent visit to Brisbane to visit grand-kids in quite a while, I was fortunate enough that the timing coincided with the Brisbane Branch at "The Hut" where Tim Heard gave a very enlightening presentation. These guys are so fortunate to have access to Tim who is only too willing to share his knowledge. Now looking forward to Tim joining us here in Gladstone on 13<sup>th</sup> March for our long awaited workshop which is fully booked. The most encouraging thing is that perhaps 75% of registrations are new potential members.

As mentioned last month we held our first group outing / meeting for the year at the residence of Gary & Marg Moore, 31 Katherine Road, Calliope on Sat 13<sup>th</sup> February. Our hosts were only too willing to share their collection of hives and their experiences particularly with education techniques. Such a magnificent collection in such a short space of time. We are looking forward to welcoming both Marg and Gary as ANBA members.

Visited the residence of member Bruce Noonan down at Turkey Beach to give him a hand with splitting two of his hives. The first was a colony of very feisty TH who did not take kindly to being disturbed. The box was absolutely full and the split went very well. The second one was a very beautiful hive of AA and their behavior was the total opposite, even the Queen made herself quite visible and paid no attention to our intrusion. Whilst it was a very healthy hive, we decided not to split it as there was still a lot of space in the box for expansion.

For more info on branch activities, visit our Facebook page ANBA Gladstone Branch , Ian Anderson



*Chairman Mark addressing the meeting*



*Eduction of one of Gary & Marg's hives*



*Bruce's AA Hive and the queen*

### Wide Bay Branch News

#### Next meeting

The next meeting of the Wide Bay Branch will be held on Saturday 6th March 2021 2.30pm at the home of Adam Kent, Bundaberg Precision Bees, 36 Wave Street Burnett Heads QLD 4670. Adam will discuss his box design, education and splitting.

#### Workshop

Wide Bay Stingless Bees in conjunction with Bundaberg Precision Bees and Bee Prepared are having a SB Workshop on the 10 April at Childers. Check our FB for updates and more info, or contact [wide.bay.stingless.bees@hotmail.com](mailto:wide.bay.stingless.bees@hotmail.com), 0499 027 115.

## ANBA branches

Your Australian Native Bee Association Inc. (ANBA) is building a dynamic member-based organisation dedicated to protecting all native bees (not only stingless bees), protecting our members and providing great learning resources and social experiences. We are working with many to build a national network.

Current branches are Brisbane, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Wide Bay, Sydney and Mid North Coast NSW. Expressions of interest have come from Blue Mountains, Bathurst, Coffs Harbour, Canberra, Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Gold Coast/Scenic Rim, Darwin and Adelaide.

For details about forming a local branch go here: <https://australiannativebee.org.au/Form-a-new-local-branch>.

## Branch Executives and Contacts

### Brisbane branch

Meet on the first Sunday of each month at 1pm. THECA Hall, Chapel Hill.

*Chairperson:* Dean Haley, [josephhale67@gmail.com](mailto:josephhale67@gmail.com)

*Secretary:* Ian Driver, [ian.driver@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:ian.driver@qed.qld.gov.au)

*Treasurer:* Peter Stone, [treas@australiannativebee.org.au](mailto:treas@australiannativebee.org.au)

*Communications Officer:* Wayne Berry, [wberry@mysteryfog.net](mailto:wberry@mysteryfog.net)

*Events coordinator:* Tim Heard, [pres@australiannativebee.org.au](mailto:pres@australiannativebee.org.au)

*Committee Members:* Greg Shea, Steve Brownlie, Jason Laskus,

*Representative to ANBA Management Committee:* Dean Haley, [josephhale67@gmail.com](mailto:josephhale67@gmail.com)



### Rockhampton branch

*Chairperson:* Martin Schlick, [martin.schlick@googlemail.com](mailto:martin.schlick@googlemail.com)

*Treasurer:* Murray Smith, [dinmuz@bigpond.com](mailto:dinmuz@bigpond.com)

*Representative to ANBA Management Committee:* Martin Schlick, [martin.schlick@googlemail.com](mailto:martin.schlick@googlemail.com)

### Gladstone branch

*Chairperson:* Mark Larney, [larneys@internode.on.net](mailto:larneys@internode.on.net)

*Secretary / Treasurer:* Ian Anderson, [iganderson50@bigpond.com](mailto:iganderson50@bigpond.com)

*Events Co-Ordinator:* Chris Fahey, [chrisfahey80@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisfahey80@yahoo.com) and Doug Stephan, [stephands@bigpond.com](mailto:stephands@bigpond.com)

*Representative to ANBA Management Committee:* Mark Larney, [larneys@internode.on.net](mailto:larneys@internode.on.net)

### Wide Bay branch

*Chairperson:* Tony Harvey, 0488073116, [wide.bay.stingless.bees@hotmail.com](mailto:wide.bay.stingless.bees@hotmail.com)

*Deputy Chairperson:* Adam Kent, 0488268245, [akent@y7mail.com](mailto:akent@y7mail.com)

*Secretary:* Stephan Curran, [curran86@bigpond.net.au](mailto:curran86@bigpond.net.au)

*Treasurer:* Brendan Macpherson, 0404122243, [brendan@brendio.com](mailto:brendan@brendio.com)

*Events/ social media:* Sharon Davies (acting), [wide.bay.stingless.bees@hotmail.com](mailto:wide.bay.stingless.bees@hotmail.com)

*Representative to ANBA Management Committee:* Tony Harvey, 0488073116, [wide.bay.stingless.bees@hotmail.com](mailto:wide.bay.stingless.bees@hotmail.com)

### Sydney branch

*Co-Chairs:* Natalie Er [natalieer@hotmail.com](mailto:natalieer@hotmail.com) / Dan Smailes, [dan@sydneynativebees.com](mailto:dan@sydneynativebees.com)

*Secretary:* Michelle Carrick, [michelleacarrick@gmail.com](mailto:michelleacarrick@gmail.com), [community@sydneynativebees.com](mailto:community@sydneynativebees.com)

*Treasurer:* Eilis O'Beirne, 0401031346, [Eilis@chimeprojects.com.au](mailto:Eilis@chimeprojects.com.au)

*Conservation Co-ordinator:* Sam Higgins, [sam.higgins@outlook.com.au](mailto:sam.higgins@outlook.com.au)

*Communications & Promotion:* Dan Smailes, [dan@sydneynativebees.com](mailto:dan@sydneynativebees.com)

*Cultural Perspective & Education Coordinator:* Francisco Garcia Bulle Bueno, 0419 446 208, [fgar0019@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:fgar0019@uni.sydney.edu.au)

*Art & Film Coordinator:* Bradley Muffett, 0422150216, [bmuffett8@gmail.com](mailto:bmuffett8@gmail.com)

*Representative to ANBA Management Committee:* Dan Smailes, [dan@sydneynativebees.com](mailto:dan@sydneynativebees.com)

### Mid North Coast NSW branch

Meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm. Laurieton United Services Club.

*Chairperson:* Diane Norris, [diane.beewild@gmail.com](mailto:diane.beewild@gmail.com), 0422 639 336, 02 6559 4298

*Secretary:* David Crofts, [djcrofts@gmail.com](mailto:djcrofts@gmail.com), 0407 355 750

*Treasurer:* Elizabeth Crowley, [elizacrowley@yahoo.com.au](mailto:elizacrowley@yahoo.com.au)

*Communication Officer:* Derek Ayriss, [derekayriss@hotmail.com](mailto:derekayriss@hotmail.com)

*Representative to ANBA Management Committee:* Diane Norris, [diane.beewild@gmail.com](mailto:diane.beewild@gmail.com)